

REMARKS

Claims 13 - 15 are all the claims now pending in the application.

The only rejection entered by the Examiner is a rejection for double patenting over claims 6, 7 and 9 of Applicants' USP 6,602,561. The Examiner considers claims 6-9 of the present application to be patentably indistinct from the mentioned claims of the '561 patent.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that the '561 patent does not claim, or even disclose, the process of coating a powder of a hard material having an electrical insulating property with a material having electrical conducting properties, as part of a method of producing an electrode for an electrical discharge surface treatment apparatus of the type claimed. Further, applicants would point out that, with respect to original claims 7 and 8 in particular, the corresponding claims of the '561 patent say nothing regarding the conductive properties of the materials recited therein.

To the extent that the claimed subject matter may not have been clearly delineated in the original claims, the same have been cancelled in favor of new claims 13 – 15 which more clearly define the claimed invention. These claims also better conform to US style and practice standards than the original claims.

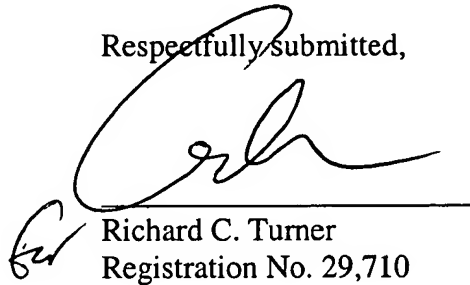
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USAN 10/088,964

Q69055

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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